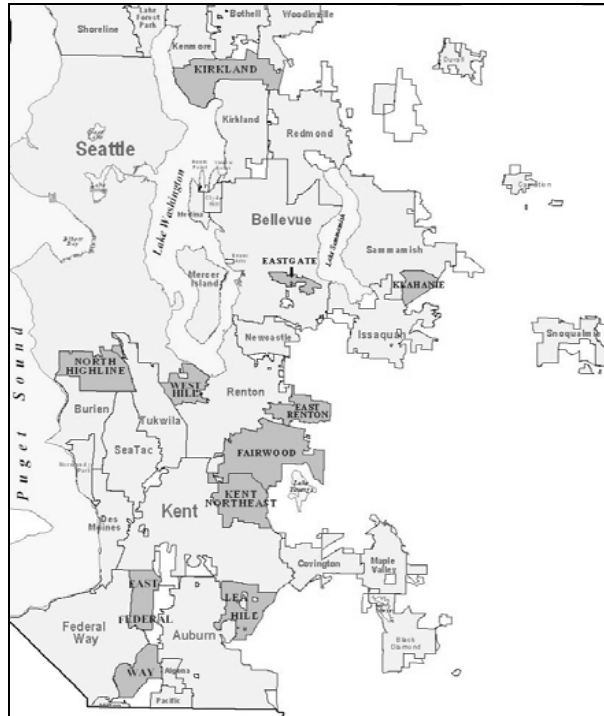


# King County

## Annexation Initiative

*Helping urban communities preserve local police, parks and municipal services by joining cities.*



*The remaining pockets of urban unincorporated King County are geographically isolated, making them costly and difficult to serve.*

King County and the cities within its borders have adopted policies to encourage annexation or incorporation of the remaining urban unincorporated communities by 2012. The County doesn't have the resources to continue providing services such as police, parks, and road maintenance at the levels that urban areas need. City governments have greater resources to provide such services in urban areas, so that the County can focus on providing regional and rural services.

## BACKGROUND

Cities and counties have different roles and taxing authorities under state law. Due in part to the limitations in state law placed on how counties can collect and spend taxes, the King County's budget for providing local urban services does not balance. Services in unincorporated urban areas have been significantly cut in recent years. Examples of such cuts include the elimination of most local park and recreation programming and reduction in human services.

To support annexation and incorporation, the Annexation Initiative provides information to residents in urban unincorporated communities on their governance options. The County and the State also provide funding to help cities pay for their new service responsibilities when annexing large communities.

## ANNEXATION PROCESS

State law gives control over annexation decisions to cities and unincorporated communities. Since the 1990s, cities and the County have had agreements in place regarding the boundary expansions to ensure all urban areas are eventually part of cities. These “expansion areas,” or “potential annexation areas” are where annexations may occur. There are several annexation methods cities and residents can pursue. All annexation methods give the community authority to approve or reject an annexation either through a vote, petition, or citizen referendum (to call for a vote).

The election method of annexation is most common for large urban areas. Citizens can encourage cities to call for an annexation election by joining together to sign a petition seeking an election. City staff are available to help residents develop petitions that meet legal standards and city requirements.

### Steps to annexation (Election Method)

- Resident petition submitted to city (optional, but preferred by many cities)
- City Council calls for election
- Boundary Review Board reviews annexation proposal
- Election (approved by simple majority)
- City Council votes to accept annexation

## IF MY COMMUNITY ANNEXES...

The direct local services you receive from the County would be provided by a city. Some services currently provided by special district governments may also be provided by the annexing city. Check with your annexing city for more information on service improvements and changes.

### What services will change?

- Police
- Roads/Streets
- Permitting and zoning
- Code enforcement
- Local parks and recreation
- Surface water management

### What services will stay the same?

- School district
- Bus service
- Public health
- Regional parks and trails

### What other changes may occur?

Contact your annexing city to learn more about service plans for:

- Fire protection & emergency medical services
- Sewer & Water
- Library
- District Court
- Garbage/recycling service

## 2007 Election Schedule

*City of Auburn*

Aug. 21, 2007: Lea Hill and West Hill

*City of Federal Way*

Aug. 21, 2007: East Federal Way

*City of Renton*

November 6, 2007: Benson Hill Communities

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Why do communities annex or incorporate?** Most urban parts of the County receive their local services from cities. Communities often join or form their own city to have a larger voice in local decision-making. Cities also generally provide a higher level of service than the County, which many communities desire as they grow. In recent years, County budget constraints have led to service cuts. This has increased interest in some communities to annex and incorporate.

**What happens if my urban area doesn't annex?** Residents and businesses would see no change in the providers of governmental services. County services would likely continue to erode over time, due to financial constraints.

**Does annexation mean higher taxes?** *Typically, no.* In most areas, the taxes for the average resident will be about the same or lower, although the combination of taxes that residents pay would change. Cities have the authority to impose utility and business taxes; counties do not.

**Will my school district change?** No. The current school district will continue to operate the schools in your community.

**Who votes on annexation?** All registered voters in the area to be annexed are eligible to vote in an annexation election. Not all methods of annexation require a vote. However, every annexation method gives the community authority to approve or reject an annexation either through a vote, petition, or citizen referendum (to call for a vote).

**Learn More About Annexation**  
**King County Annexation Initiative**  
[www.metrokc.gov/annex](http://www.metrokc.gov/annex)  
(206) 296-3434

## City Annexation Information

<b>City of Auburn</b> <a href="http://www.ci.auburn.wa.us/about/annexation">www.ci.auburn.wa.us/about/annexation</a>	<b>City of Burien</b> <a href="http://www.ci.burien.wa.us">www.ci.burien.wa.us</a>	<b>City of Issaquah</b> <a href="http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us">www.ci.issaquah.wa.us</a>	<b>City of Renton</b> <a href="http://www.rentonwa.gov">www.rentonwa.gov</a>
<b>City of Bellevue</b> <a href="http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us">www.ci.bellevue.wa.us</a>	<b>City of Federal Way</b> <a href="http://www.cityoffederalway.com">www.cityoffederalway.com</a>	<b>City of Kirkland</b> <a href="http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us">www.ci.kirkland.wa.us</a>	<b>City of Seattle</b> <a href="http://www.seattle.gov">www.seattle.gov</a>

**Washington State Boundary Review Board for King County**  
[www.kingcounty.gov/property/annexations](http://www.kingcounty.gov/property/annexations)  
(206) 296-6800

The Boundary Review Board reviews proposals for boundary changes by cities, fire districts, and water/sewer districts within King County, including city or district annexations, new city incorporations, and district mergers.

